11. Under Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE). Rs.3.04 crore have been released for implementation of 570 EGS (Primary) Centres and 1347 EGS (Upper Primary) Centres in 4 SSA districts and 3147 EGS (Upper Primary, 6-14 years) Centres in 7 DPEP districts. An amount of Rs. 6.88 crore have also been released for implementation 5949 EGS (Upper Primary, 11-14 years) Centres in another 8 DPEP districts.

National Programme of Nutritional Support

*34 SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT BE PLEASED TO STATE:

(a) whether the National Programme of Nutritional Support to primary education, popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, was launched during 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey of the programme with regard to its impact on enrolment, attendance, retention and universalisation of primary educaton;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated and utilized during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An evaluation has been undertaken in 10 States to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals Scheme) by an independent agency, Operations Research Group, New Delhi. The study covers Assam Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The report was submitted in September, 1999. The findings of the report state that while the programme has given a boost to enrolment in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; in 6 other States it has had a positive impact on attendance and retention.

Besides, a study conducted by NCERT on State policies on Incentive Schemes in Primary Schools and their Contribution to Girls' Participation, completed in April, 2000, also covers the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The report says that the Noon Meal Scheme of Tamil Nadu and

supply of food - grains under MDM in Uttar Pradesh have helped to improve the enrolment and retention of girls in schools.

Two studies were also commissioned by the Planning Commission - one, a comparative study of Orissa and Tamil Nadu and the other a comparative study on Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The first study found that while in Orissa there was positive impact on enrolment for SC/ST students, average attendance rate had increased in the post-MDM period in both Tamil Nadu and Orissa. The second study found that while it was difficult to evaluate the impact of the scheme on enrolment, there was a fluctuating trend in respect of attendance in UP and a marginal improvement in Himachal Pradesh.

(d) As per the scheme, foodgrains are made available free of cost to States/ UTs through Food Corporation of India (FCI), the cost of which is reimbursed to FCI at BPL rate and therefore, no funds are allocated to States. Transportation costs are reimbursed to the State agencies. Year wise expenditure incurred during the last three years was as under:

Year	Expenditure (In Rs. Crore)
1998-1999	1600.15
1999-2000	1500.00
2000-2001	1299.00

Rail Accidents

*35. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail accidents that took place in each year during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) what is the number of people killed and injured in each of these accidents;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of rail accidents has risen during the last five years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?